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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of assigning thread priority comprising:
assigning priority to a first thread in a multi threaded processor;
loading a preliminary value to a thread precedence counter;
assigning priority to a second thread in response to expiration of said thread precedence counter;
determining if there is an indication of approaching instruction side starvation for said first thread; and
incrementing a value stored in said first starting counter in response to an indication of approaching instruction side starvation for said first thread.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said preliminary value is based on a value stored in a first starting counter associated with said first thread.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein determining if there is an indication of approaching instruction side starvation for said first thread includes